

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) An isolated protein or derivative, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic thereof wherein said protein is a novel sphingosine kinase protein.

2. (original) An isolated protein according to claim 1 wherein said sphingosine kinase protein is a human sphingosine kinase protein.

3. (original) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or a derivative or mimetic thereof or a sequence having at least about 45% similarity to at least 10 contiguous amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2 or a derivative, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein.

4. (original) An isolated protein according to claim 3 encoded by a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or a derivative or analogue thereof or capable of hybridising to SEQ ID NO:1 under low stringency conditions or a derivative, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein.

5. (original) An isolated protein according to claim 1 substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

6. (original) Sphingosine kinase or *sphingosine kinase* or a derivative, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic thereof for use in modulating cellular functional activity.

7. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~sphingosine kinase, sphingosine kinase or an agent capable of modulating sphingosine kinase or sphingosine kinase~~ the sphingosine kinase of claim 1 or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic thereof together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

8. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the sphingosine kinase of claim 2 or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic thereof together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

9. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the sphingosine kinase of claim 3 or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic thereof together with

one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

10. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the sphingosine kinase of claim 4 or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic thereof together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

11. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the sphingosine kinase of claim 5 or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic thereof together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

12. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the sphingosine kinase of claim 6 or derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic thereof together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.